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BM, BC, CD, CF, IV, KG, LY, EC, DA  
SUBJECT: UN GENERAL DEBATE: BURMA, LIBYA, AND OTHERS

REF: STATE 98982

¶1. SUMMARY: During the morning UN General Assembly General Debate on September 29, Lao, Turkmenistan, Moldova, Liechtenstein, Singapore, Yemen, Jordan, Burma, Botswana, Chad, Congo (Brazzaville), Cote D'Ivoire, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Ecuador, and Denmark spoke. Speakers continued discussing the energy, food, and financial crises; climate change; poverty eradication and implementation of the Millennium Development Goals; regional security issues, including peace in the Middle East, the "frozen" conflicts in the Former Soviet Union, and African conflicts; human rights; and UN reform. Burma criticized the "unfair, immoral, and unwarranted" sanctions imposed on Burma, and said that Burma's cooperation with the international community in the wake of Cyclone Nargis was a "model" for natural-disaster response. Libya emphasized that terrorism should not be confused with the rights of peoples to resist foreign occupation and to self-determination. Ecuador expressed strong concern over the violation of the human rights of suspected terrorists, and stressed that the fight against terrorism could not be an excuse for states to disregard international law. All speeches are available at [www.un.org/ga/generaldebate](http://www.un.org/ga/generaldebate). END SUMMARY

#### TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY IN AREAS WITH "FROZEN" CONFLICTS

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¶2. Moldova cautioned that "frozen" conflicts, like those in Georgia and Transnistria, fostered instability, and that international recognition of Abkhazia and Southern Ossetia would not stabilize the situation. Moldova, the speaker said, rejected the use of force in conflict settlement; he called for the United Nations to take more direct actions to prevent and manage conflicts, and to address the resulting humanitarian needs. The speaker emphasized the importance of respecting Georgia's territorial integrity, and called for "demilitarization and democratization" of the Transnistrian region. Denmark noted that the conflict in Georgia dramatically affected the region, but also had more serious repercussions, and called for a peaceful solution to the conflict that respected Georgia's independence, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. Singapore characterized Russia's recent recognition of South Ossetia and Abkhazia as "unsettling" and said that Georgia should not be linked to Kosovo. Yemen declared its support for Georgian sovereignty.

#### DARFUR AND SOMALIA

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¶3. Chad recounted the economic, social, and environmental impact to the country caused by the crisis in Darfur, particularly the high IDP/refugee burden in eastern Chad. The speaker called for the international community to contribute all available resources to work towards a lasting, comprehensive solution and to assist with humanitarian needs. Botswana expressed deep concern over the "ever-worsening" situation in Darfur, noting that the continuation of armed

hostilities despite UN efforts was "disconcerting." The speaker called upon all parties to commit to a political dialogue to work towards lasting peace. He also called for Somalia to commit to an "all-inclusive" political process to achieve peace, and stressed the need for international humanitarian assistance to Somalia. Congo termed the International Criminal Court's (ICC's) indictment against the Sudanese President "counterproductive," Yemen also disagreed with the indictment, and called for outside powers to cease "meddling" in Somalia. Denmark noted its support for the ICC's decision, and called for those responsible for the grave crimes committed in Darfur to be held accountable. The speaker also underscored that piracy was undermining stability in Somalia, and called for increased international efforts to fight piracy.

#### PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

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¶4. Libya, Jordan, and Yemen called for peace and stability in the region via the establishment of a Palestinian state. Libya blasted Israel for subjecting Palestinians to "the fiercest form of occupation and extermination practiced against civilians," and called for Israel to withdraw from the Golan Heights and Lebanese territory. Yemen termed the situation for Palestinians "a source of grave concern," and called on the international community to establish conditions that would allow for peace. Jordan criticized Israel for acting "in defiance" of the International Court of Justice's decision regarding the construction of a separation wall, and for intensifying its settlement activities, which Jordan said threatened the chance for establishment of an independent and viable Palestinian state. Denmark urged all parties involved

to honor their Road Map commitments, and strongly condemned the "unacceptable" remarks made by the Iranian President "calling for wiping Israel off the face of the map." Yemen and Jordan explicitly welcomed the "remarkable progress" in Iraq, and Yemen condemned the terrorist attack on the U.S. Embassy in Sana'a.

#### SHARP CRITICISM OF OCCUPATION, FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

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¶5. Libyan Permanent Representative Giadalla Ettalhi emphasized that terrorism should not be confused with the legitimate right of peoples to resist foreign occupation "in order to obtain their freedom and independence," nor with their right to self-determination. He underscored that associating the term "terrorism" with specific religions, nationalities, or cultures would "inflame conflicts," and said that a system based on that perception was "incompatible" with relations between governments and cultures based on respect. Ettalhi declared the practice of foreign occupation, which he said violated internationally agreed human rights standards, "one of the worst forms of terrorism in our modern world." Ecuadorian Permanent Representative Maria Fernanda Espinosa stressed that the fight against terrorism could not be used as an excuse for "some states" to disregard international law, particularly the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other nations, and non-intervention in their internal affairs. She expressed strong concern over the "very serious precedent" set by the violation of the human rights of suspected terrorists, whom she said "have been tortured, have been incarcerated in clandestine military prisons, and have been deprived of the elemental right to defend themselves," practices which she said "must be condemned" by the international community.

#### BURMA: DISASTER RESPONSE "A MODEL" FOR COOPERATION

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¶6. Per reftel instructions, all senior USG officials vacated the U.S. chair during Burmese Foreign Minister U Nyan Win's intervention, leaving only a notetaker. Win termed the unilateral sanctions imposed on Burma as "unwarranted," "against international law," "unfair," and "immoral." He

emphasized that "political and social progress can only be achieved through development, never through coercive economic measures," which he said would "only serve to worsen the plight of the people." Noting that Cyclone Nargis had caused "unprecedented death and destruction," Win said that his nation was united in its response to the emergency. He thanked international donors for their "overwhelming" generosity in the wake of the storm, and said that Burma had demonstrated its "willingness and ability" to work "in concert" with the international community, a response which he said was "widely regarded as a model for effective cooperation in the case of natural disasters." Win concluded by stating that "the international community can best assist Myanmar's democratization process by respecting the will of its people expressed in the recent referendum."

Khalilzad